port for technical clearance by the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) and to confirm availability of plan provision for the scheme to enable the Government of India to pose it for external assistance.

Benefits of Crop Insurance Scheme

469. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state to refer to the reply to Starred Question 118 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th May, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the demands for crop Insurance Scheme for all the crops and at all levels whether Tahsil, Block or Village and; if so, what is the decision of Government in this regard, and whether the non-loanee farmers are also to be benefited; and

(b) whether there have been any complaints that certain States had not received the Central support in time in this scheme or that certain States have discontinued or are about to discontinue the scheme due to financial compulsions and if so, the details thereof and what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Government's attention has been drawn from time to time to cover several crops other than those already covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme and also to reduce the unit size of crop insurance from Taluka/Block to Village level. The unit size of crop insurance may be reduced to village level provided the State Governments have adequate yield data for a given insured crop for last 5 years at village level and provided it is possible for them to conduct minimum number of crop cutting experiments in all villages at the end of the season. Presently, there is no proposal to provide crop insurance benefit to the non-loanee farmers or covering any other crop.

(b) Some States have in past represented to the Government of India for timely payment of indemnity claims under Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme. However, no implementing State in past has discontinued the Scheme due to financial compulsions. For prompt settlement of claims, it has been decided that the General Insurance Corporation of India would work out the complete details of claims payable within two months of the receipt of yield data by them from State Governments.

Ban on use of Pesticides

470. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a member of the Planning Commission has suggested to Government to ban use of pesticides in a phased manner as these are highly poisonous; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) As reported in the Hidustan Times of 15th June, 1988, a Member of the Planning Commission had observed that certain pesticides banned for use in advanced countries are in use in India.

(b) The Government of India in August, 1984, constituted an Expert Committee to examine the utility in India of pesticides banned or phased out or restricted in use in developed countries and give suggestions for safer substitutes. The Committee has given its report on DDT, BHC, aldrin, dieldrin, chlordane, heptachlor and EDB. The recommendations of the

Expert Committee to restrict the use of BHC at its present level has been accepted by the Government. The reports on DDT aldrin, dieldrin, chlordane, heptachlor and EDB are under examination. The use of endrin has already been phased out in India.

Number of AIR Stations in the country and the area and population covered thereunder

471. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of AIR stations in the country at present;

(b) the area and population covered by each station;

(c) the areas and the population left to be covered; and

(d) the number of AIR stations likely to be opened in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) There are 94 radio stations in the country at present.

(b) The area and population covered by each station is given in the statement attached as Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 21]

(c) with the commissioning of 7th Plan projects the area and population left to be covered state-wise is given in the statement attached as Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No. 22.]

(d) By March, 1989 new radio stations at 22 centres are envisaged to be ready for commissioning.

Urban Development Project of Tamil Nadu

472. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project for Urban Development in Tamil Nadu was submitted to World Bank in the past, if so, details of the project along with areas covered and nature of the project;

(b) whether the World Bank has approved the project or not, if so, details thereof;

(c) how many people will be benefited in each city and town; and

(d) whether any preference will be given in allotment of sites to socially weaker sections, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project estimated to cost a total of Rs. 632.60 crores has been approved by the World Bank. The project would have components of Sites and Services, Slum Improvement, Traffic Management and Transport etc. and would cover ten urban agglomerations viz; Madras, Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, Salem, Tirunelveli, Erode, Tuticorin, Vellore and Tiruppur.

(c) A total population of 8.6 million would be covered.

(d) The residential plots would be provided primarily for Low Income Groups.